

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 2, 4-9 and 11 have been withdrawn from consideration. Claims 3, 10 and 12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a) over Frezza (U.S Patent 6,909,166) in view of Harper. No claims have been amended hereby. Reconsideration of the above identified patent application is respectfully requested in light of the below remarks.

In paragraphs 4-6 of the Office Action claims 3, 10 and 12 have been rejected under §103 over Frezza in view of Harper. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Independent claims 3 and 12 each require that “the plurality of leads do not extend beyond the side surfaces of the molded resin.” Applicants had previously argued that Frezza does not teach this limitation of claims 3 and 12. In response to this argument, in paragraph 7 of the Office Action, it is stated that the leads of Figures 9 and 10 in Frezza have a portion of a perimetric region of their side surfaces 36 encapsulated by the resin 60 while their side surfaces 36 in the etching zone 39 is exposed by plating (see, e.g., col. 5/II 41-46, 56-60. Applicants respectfully disagree that this, or any portion of Frezza, teach that the leads do not extend beyond the side surfaces of the molded resin.

Applicant respectfully submits that Figure 9 in Frezza expressly shows that the leads 71 extend beyond the side surface of the molded resin. Specifically, the solid line in each of the leads 71 above (on the page) the through holes 32 represents the end (side surface) of the resin molding. This interpretation of Figure 9 is consistent with each of the other figures in Frezza, specifically Figures 7, 8, 12 and 13. In each of the Figures, the leads 71 extend beyond the side wall of the resin. There is no discussion whatsoever in Frezza that the relationship between the positioning of the side surface of the molded resin (or package) and the positioning of the terminal surface of the lead is different between that of Figure 9 and the other Figures. The only explanation for the

solid lines on leads 71 that is consistent with the disclosure of Frezza is that this line represents the end of the resin.

The Final Office Action appears to be relying on the statement in Frezza that “[t]he remaining perimetric zone of the side surface 36 cannot be welded, because the electro-plating operation does not concern them, as they are encapsulated by the resin 60.” (col. 5, lines 57-59). Applicant respectfully submits that this teaching of Frezza is consistent with the interpretation of Figure 9 in which the leads 71 extend outward from the side surface of the resin. Specifically, the portion of side surfaces 36 of leads 71 to which this passage refers is the portion of the side surfaces 36 above the line in Figure 9 (i.e., those portions encapsulated by the resin.) The perimetric zone of side surface 36 extends all the way around the lead 71. Portions of surface 36 being encapsulated in the resin and portions (illustrated in Figure 10) extending beyond the side surface of the resin.

The illustration in Figure 10 further supports Applicant’s interpretation. The upper surface 35, which is later covered by the PCB, are hatched to show that it is not visible in the final product. Conversely, the portion of side surface 36 shown in Figure 10 is not similarly hatched, indicating to one skilled in the art that that this side surface is visible, and hence, not encapsulated by the resin.

Applicant therefore respectfully submits that the only reasonable interpretation of Figure 9 and 10 in Frezza is that the ends of leads 71 extend beyond the side wall of the resin package and thus Frezza does not teach or suggest the present invention as recited in claims 3, 10 and 12.

The additional art Harper does not teach or suggest that the leads do not extend outwardly beyond the side surface of the package.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that even if Frezza and Harper were to be combined, the resultant combination does not read on the present invention as recited in claims 3, 10 and 12.

In view of the above remarks, Applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

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Respectfully submitted,

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